Connections not content: which would you rather give up, email or the web? CB

Dan Chudnov, founder of the oss4lib project, on open source software and libraries: "We developed a piece of software here, and Ohio State got their hands on it and made it better. Now we're running Ohio State's version. CB

Less than half of all Web pages are indexed by search engines, but 6 out of 10 Web surfers spend one hour or more using them each week." Nice little article, complete with charts and graphs. CB

"It is awful. Awful, ugly, pointless, searchless, archiveless. And there's not even a current cover illustration. It's naked." Sad muffin reviews for the NewYorker.com. JB

Perry Link's new book discusses what literature the Chinese read and why, under an oppressive regime... "Early in 1979 the Chinese officials in charge of culture declared that the Maoist ban on nineteen traditional classics and sixteen foreign works, including Anna Karenina, was lifted. On the day the books became available at a Beijing bookshop, a line of people two miles long formed and within a week all 800,000 copies were sold. Fights broke out among the customers jostling to buy the books." JB

Rory writes a thoughtful editorial on Neutrality, Objectivity, and the Political Center in this week's Library Juice. JB


Whiskey wow wow, check out that Sonic Boom! [link via SvN] JB

Rik's got an unofficial and strictly puerile/offensive writing competition encouraging slackers and luddites to get with the program and update to a standard's compliant browser. Tip: Use IE. JB

Ask Carmee: Carmee Lim, chairman of the Parents Advisory Group for the Internet, is taking questions regarding the "ill effects" of the Internet on children. An interview with the Sunday Times will follow. JB
Privacy Coalition launches a new initiative, the Privacy Pledge, which seeks to establish a standard for the future protection of privacy. CB

Habla español e inglés? The new journal Críticas is looking for reviewers of Spanish-language books on all subjects. CB

Censor that VAGINA! Libraries aren't the only targets for censorship - highways are too - big ol' twenty foot vagina screaming at my children... JB

ACLU in court again... this time, to protect online anonymity. fnord. JB

From the consistently relevant NewPages Weblog:

1. New Media Heroes Awards: six "heroes" who effectively use the technology of the Internet to make a significant difference in people's lives.

2. The Onion transplants from Madison to New York.

3. "It's about religion; it's about politics; it's about social order." Alec Newman (Paul Atreides) on Dune. (selected) Science fiction has substance. Hear hear! JB

Workspheres: an exhibit set to open this month at New York's Museum of Modern Art. With the trend moving towards wireless, I wonder what future library spaces will consist of. JB

Nice little write up on Borges... did you know Borges was crippled by shyness until well past middle age? Or that the first novel he read was Huckleberry Finn? Or that at age 38, he took his first real job as a cataloguer at a municipal library? JB

New York Times v. Tasini: U.S. Supreme Court agrees to hear oral arguments in case concerning "whether publishers violate writers' copyrights by distributing their works electronically without their permission." CB

"publiclibraryofscience.org was established to organize support within the scientific community for online public libraries of science, providing unrestricted free access to the archival record of scientific research. Scientists can express their support for this effort by signing an open letter." Hey, can librarians sign, too? CB

"Look," I said, "I know this is a stupid question. But was there any teacher who, say, disapproved of what you were doing?"

The three boys considered this, plainly for the first time in their lives.

"The librarian," Jonathan finally said.
"Yeah," John said. "But that's only because the computers were in the library, and she didn't like us using them."

Funny, fascinating article on **teen stock wizard and S.E.C. nemesis**, Jonathan Lebed. Requires registration (takes less than a minute); definitely worth the read. **JB**

Comprehensive **Simpson's library**, created and maintained by rabid fans. Includes trivia, character files, episode capsules, and waaaay too much to list here. I mean, they even have "**Simpsons Colors**" - Pantone & RGB colors used used in the production of Simpsons animation! **JB**

**Timelines** on the web - 5 categories:

1. History & Cultures
2. Science & Technology
3. Arts & Literature
4. Popular Culture
5. Science Fiction

[link via **Research Buzz**] **JB**

**iaslash**: news for information architects. [link via **lisnews**] **JB**

Douglass Rushkoff's Frontline documentary, "**The Merchants of Cool**" airs tomorrow. PBS. Check **local listings** for schedules. **JB**

**24 feb 01**

**2001 SXSW Panel Grid**: Peer to peer, interfaces, web trends, privacy, content and personalization... looks like another great conference, not to mention the music. If only it weren't so darn **expensive**. **JB**

Thanks to **Suite101** for the link support! **JB**

**PLib interface makeover**: "Elish [a non librarian] claims his goal is not to threaten the grand tradition of free public access to a rich supply of information. Rather, he wants to sell the Carnegie Library's relevance to a much broader segment of the Pittsburgh population by offering the customers -- his word -- more of what they want." Making it **real** makes it work. [link via **NewPages**]. **JB**

Somewhat interesting article on "**Generation Blog**" (somewhat stupid name) and the malleable nature of the Internet: "the most revolutionary applications tend to emerge not from commercial organizations but from passionate amateurs." **JB**
**23 feb 01**

**Sports Illustrated swimmsuit issue** sprouts legs and walks out of libraries -- must be closely watched, Yo. **JB**

"Women and rural Americans have **bridged the digital divide** in narrowband Internet access, but a chasm remains in broadband access, especially when it comes to cost and geography, according to a **General Accounting Office report** released Thursday." **CB**

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**22 feb 01**

**futurelib**: a new listserv from the School of Information at the University of Michigan focusing on the implications of profound changes in libraries and how this effects library education. **JB**

**Yahoo sets an important legal precedent**, by defying a French court's ruling to block access to Nazi-related goods by French users. **JB**

**Library offers Unabomber's papers**, his correspondence with pen pals from philosophy to beets, but the manifesto is not part of collection. [link via Anarchist librarian, ChuckO ] **JB**

**The Virtual Information Desk**: Totally virtual, staffed by four librarians who work at home during the evening and on weekends. "We used to work in the library, but after the second year we analyzed our answers and discovered that we only consulted print materials for 4% of the questions. Since the other librarians traveled a long distance, we decided to allow them to work from home. To make service faster and more dependable, we pay for their DSL or Cable connections (great perk!)." Examples of Q&A here. [link via Dig_Ref listserv ] **JB**

MARS is recruiting a **coordinator for its official web site**. This is an excellent opportunity to network with remote librarians, establish a name for yourself professionally, and develop/maintain web authoring skills. **JB**

**Rare books are lucrative for thieves.** "Now people are stealing them, cutting them up and selling them on online auction houses." Slimy bastards. [link via Library Underground ] **JB**

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**21 feb 01**

Check out the **how-much-info** web site that talks about the Berkeley study. **CB**

**Information overload**: More original data will be created in the next two years than in all of human history. Berkeley researchers seek to quantify content from all gov docs, business meetings, websites, newspapers, telescope data, tv, and lots more stuff which would equal "a cylinder soaring more than 2 million miles into the heavens" if stored on standard floppies. The challenge then? FILTERING. [link via NewPages Weblog] **JB**
Could Bukowski really get this guy laid in college? What do I link to in that sentence?? [link via Zeldman] JB

Two worthwhile threads at Signal vs. Noise:

1. Excellent (brief) observation on internet access and poverty in Africa.
2. 20-something angst from the poor darlings at Wallpaper and beyond.
3. OK, three... looks like Radiohead starts touring the West Coast in June. JB

Want to know more about Bibliographic Management Software or make a webguide for your users? Check this one out on Endnote and Procite. JB

pseudodictionary.com: Ah yes! Very cool dictionary offering up slang, webspeak, and ad-hoc words and phrases. If you know any potential candidates, help these guys grow. [link via Library Juice] ... great new Juice too. JB

Two residency positions available at the University of Minnesota. Not limited to just recent graduates: librarians who would like to try an academic environment are encouraged to apply as are students still attending library school if they graduate before the start date. JB

20 feb 01

Check your Bandwidth Speed. JB

Help this guy out and complete his 5 minute censorship survey [link via Surfstation] JB

Press Release: Opera web browser coming to the Mac. [link via Zeldman] JB

If you're looking for an email news service, the Washington Post just launched theirs. JB

An open-source movie archive with hundreds of propaganda films from the past. JB

If you plan on going, the early registration deadline for ALA is this Friday. To register online, go to www.ala.org/events/ac2001/ JB

19 feb 01

Defending Oprah..."She uses books for therapy, and the audience can't get enough. Is Oprah Winfrey carpet bombing the American mind with hollow, feel good pap?" If you're reading, you're not watching TV...what's wrong with that? [link via ALDaily] CB

Internet anonymity – a double-edged sword? [link via Wired] CB

The Pew Internet & American Life Project, which tracks Internet usage and habits, estimates that 56% of the U.S. adult population is online, along with nearly 75% of children ages 12 to 17 had Internet
access. But there are still two significant gaps: only 38% of Americans earning less than $30K had Internet access. And only 15% of the 65-and-up group were online. CB

Microsoft says open-source software is un-American. Has the company completely lost its mind?" Amen to that. CB

18 Feb 01

This is cool: "The reason I really did this is to bring attention to the fact that librarians aren't just stodgy old women, telling people to be quiet, like the stereotypes of them." [link via lisnews] JB

16 Feb 01

yahooka.com... yahoo for potheads. JB

New Yorker cartoons: tees and sweatshirts and stuff. JB

Catherine Cookson's _The Solace of Sin_ tops the Public Lending Rights adult list. "She was again the most borrowed author for the 18th year running." Sheesh, I've never heard of her. JB

Long live the revolution! A List Apart says "to hell with bad browsers" and urges us to start separating style from content and achieve web standards compliance – CSS-1, HTML 4.01, and scripting languages – today. But don't try to read this using a version 4 browser. CB

While working on a project yesterday, I rediscovered GraceAnne DeCandido's Ten Graces for New Librarians, a commencement speech she delivered at SUNY/Albany in 1996, but still highly relevant. My personal favorite? Number 10, librarianship as the connecting of people to ideas. CB

15 Feb 01

A fun article on classifying book collections. Real anality, though, is best demonstrated by music collectors. JB

Need to write a grant? This article is a good place to start (procrastinating). JB

Whoa Nelly... this is a looong paper submitted by The Internet Society to UNESCO entitled Global Trends that will Impact Universal Access to Information Resources. Includes a nifty chart on countries with internet barriers that may be useful for that paper you're working on. JB

Important Press Freedom Conference for real news providers and media activists in San Francisco bringing together "the new online media; the old mainstream media; and the ethnic media -- together with ad agencies, advertisers, public officials, community organizers and interested citizens" --> librarians (should) have a role here. JB
Collection Development note: **Paranoia Picks** from Disinformation, in celebration of conspiracy theories and the difficult questions these types ask at the reference desk. **JB**

**Fun stuff** from Jennifer. **JB**

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**14 Feb 01**

"People ask an average of 4 questions per day that would require them to get answers from an outside source" was one of the findings of this **small study. JB**

I missed **Inside Edition's** librarian and Vegas showgirl switcheroo last night. Looks like part two airs tonight. **JB**

Pat Schroeder answers a few questions at **lisnews.com** in response to her **Washington Post article. JB**

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**13 Feb 01**

Selections from this week's **Scout Report**

1. **Making of America**: a digital library of primary sources in American social history from the antebellum period through reconstruction currently containing 8,500 books and 50,000 journal articles representing a major collaboration in preservation and electronic access to historical texts. Uses OCR.

2. **Foreign Relations of the United States** is "the official documentary historical record of major US foreign policy decisions and significant diplomatic activity."


4. **Breakthrough Books**: Experts recommend current releases in a selected field. This month is The History of TV. I'm bookmarking it.

5. **Public Radio Fan** serves as a directory to public radio stations. Includes sites, audio feeds, and programming schedules.

6. **AltaVista Tools** allows you to restrict searches to .edu and .gov domains.

7. **Google Now Indexes PDF Files. JB**

"**Plastinates show the beauty of our body interior.**" A controversial, yet anatomically educational mummification and dismemberment exhibition in Berlin. I say yes, and that it could work as a display in a science library. **JB**

**Alt-PressWatch**, a new full-text database covering alternative and independent presses. **JB**

**PACER** Public Access to Court Electronic Records via the internet brings up the precarious balance between the public's right to know vs. Joe Blow's right to privacy. **JB**
Here you have, ;o) a worm. Don't open the AnnaKournikova.jpg.vbs attachment or the little sucker will replicate via Outlook. JB

Top 10 Contender's for Napster's Crown, if you're looking for a replacement. JB

Filter. Censor. Prosecute: "The Chinese government continues to deny its citizens their fundamental rights, including the right to free expression." - in this case, for publishing the Tiananmen Square pro-democracy protests on the web. JB

Netscape 6.01 released with enhanced stability and adjustments for problems reported in version 6.0. I'm just hoping it works with the library's proxy server. JB

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12 feb 01

"The music-swapping service Napster must stop trading in copyrighted material and may be held liable if it fails to patrol its system, a federal appeals court ruled Monday." Another innovative technology forced to adopt the "pay-per-view" model in order to survive? CB

Google Buys Deja.com, including their entire Usenet archive. JB

"Whether I consciously think about it or not, the library is now just as Java-cookie-style-sheet-XML-oriented as other online providers in cyberspace... At some point, just when I wasn't looking – at least not clearly enough – the library got with the program. Who serves up dynamically generated web pages? I guess we do... amazing!" Letters has been updated for your reading pleasure. CB

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11 feb 01

Today's theme seems to be SEX

World Sexual Records and averages: just in time for Valentine's Day. I'm probably not the only one to have received questions on size while on the reference desk. JB

Brittany crashes Britannica. "Encyclopedia Britannica shut down after 17 million fans jammed the site to see the 19-year-old's pierced navel." I don't get it. JB

(Debatable) heads-up for summer reading lists for teens: Porn star memoir is a bestseller among Asian teenagers. Young Taiwanese say it's more about learning about overcoming obstacles, not a porn primer. JB

New performance standards for British Libraries covering location, hours, computer access, books selection, training and more. JB

Man Stole Nearly 800 Library Books. What's wrong with these people?! JB
World's First all-nude library. Sydney. "But nonchalant mom-of-three Thelma Houseman, who visits the library once a week, says any dirty old men who drop by are destined for disappointment, anyway. 'Remember, the beautiful people don't hang out in libraries -- even nude libraries,' she said with a sigh."

Who says? [link via Laughing Librarian] JB

09 feb 01

Hundreds of naked women force scientists to flee... wonder if this tactic would work for librarians?? JB

Palm Vc/m505: release date = end of March. $550 - $650. My daughter wants one and told me she would be willing to stand on a street corner with a "Hungry for palm pilot" sign. Nuh-uh. JB

From the ALA News Releases, Vol. 7 No. 2, January 31, 2001:

- "Free Pass Program allows librarians to attend Zimbabwe International Book Fair" ... a free pass to the book fair, but it'll cost you $3,000 to get there.
- "Harry Potter series again tops list of most challenged books" ... "Potter named College & Research Libraries editor." Ummm, not the same person, I presume.
- The number of challenges to the Harry Potter series in 2000 was three times the number in 1999, cited for "occult/Satanism and anti-family themes" -- get real, folks, it's fantasy. But Harry's in good company; John Steinbeck's "Of Mice and Men" and Maya Angelou's "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings" also made the top ten (again) in 2000. CB

Ex-Wife of Pardoned Fugitive Gave $400,000 to Clinton Library. "Sources said Denise Rich gave money to the library after consulting with Beth Dozoretz, a close Clinton friend and major Democratic fundraiser who discussed the pardon of Marc Rich with the president nine days before he granted it." [link via SvN]. $400,000... that could hold off a serials cancellation project for at least a year, no? JB

This week's researchbuzz has a story examining the Dewey Decimal system as a precursor to search engines. JB

Britannica.com and the single girl: "With new 'spicy' content designed to appeal to the young-and-bookish set, the digital sister of the 232-year-old Encyclopedia Britannica company hopes to breathe new life into the staid business of reference media ... The first episode, TV & The Single Girl, traces the progression of the single girl in pop culture." Britannica.com: out on a limb, again.JB

Internet Filtering Teleconference to cover intellectual freedom, potential threats posed by filtering, current laws, and how filters work. To be aired live from Indianapolis on April 11, 2001. JB

08 feb 01

If your library is considering changing its vendor for PsycINFO, APA has a helpful comparison chart here. JB
Think you know what library patrons do on the web? A recent study for Burnaby Public Library shows that email, news, and web communities are the "hot" properties for these folks. Are you surprised? CB

NewPages Weblog: links to items of interest to booksellers, librarians, publishers, readers, and writers. There's also a list of Alternative Newsweeklies from New Pages which can be helpful to get a feel for an area you're interested in moving to. JB

So when I was trying to find a definition for N-Gen, I found a fabulous site for logophiles, of which I am one. Favorites on the top 50 page are cell yell, facemail!, and male answer syndrome. Geez, I never knew about webbugs either (yesterday's word of the day). Ick. JB

Last night, I finally had a chance to read some great articles linked from lisnews.com. They're worth reading, so I'll summarize a few of my margin scribbles for you:

1. **Library Skills in transition**: A good read if you're in library school and need to write a paper or reflect, postulate, debate, whatever, on future potentials and the (huge) impact technology has on tomorrow's library. Librarians as the "cyber-pub landlord." Whoa.

2. **Pat Schroeder**: heavy weight for publishers. Listen to this, No one, she says, wants to go up against libraries. "That is why we are here." Ug.

3. **The Impact of Computers on Schools**: A must read if you teach. I learned a new term: **N-Gen**, 20-n-unders surrounded with computers and technology all their lives. The article discusses the learning patterns of brains that have been shaped by the web, emphasizes a shift from "broadcast" mode (talk at them - television) to "interactive" mode (student-centered, non-linear, teacher as facilitator rather than transmitter). The article provides 10 characteristics of N-Gen culture, all of which I believe are found not only in this age group, but anyone who actively participates on listservs or net culture. Recommended read. JB

An effort to reconstitute the Oriental Institute in Sarajevo, which was destroyed by the Bosnian Serb Army in May 1992. JB

07 feb 01

**A stupid way to die.** This happened at my school too. JB

At its Midwinter Meeting, the ALA Council voted to accept the recommendation of the **Electronic Meeting Participation Task Force** to provide some form of chat-based service to members for committees to work with during 2001. This is a first step in allowing committee participation from folks who can't get to the twice-yearly meetings. CB

Internship Programs

1. **Research Library Residency & Internship Programs**
2. **LIBEX - The Bureau for International Library Staff Exchange**
3. **IRC/IRRT's International Visits and Exchanges**
4. **Mortenson Center for International Library Programs at UIUC**
5. **Information Bridges International**

We'll be adding these to the **JOBS page** tomorrow, the baby jesus willing. **JB**

Amazon **cashing in** on publishers. [link via SvN] **JB**

New Issue of **Library Juice** is up. **JB**

I almost fell out of my chair when I read this:

Dear Librarian,

After viewing your site, the librarian featured on a particular Seinfeld episode came to mind.

Anyway, we sell very inexpensive reading glasses on the Internet at www.eyeglassesforasong.com. Insofar as a library is a close kin to readers, perhaps you would be interested in promoting/linking our site to yours.

Regards,
XX **JB**

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**06 feb 01**

Do you suffer from information overload/anxiety? An entertaining and thought-provoking read on the topic is Richard Saul Wurman's **Information Anxiety 2**, the follow-up to his 1989 book of the same name (minus the "2", and also highly recommended). It's also great for teaching. **CB**

Every time I go to **Altavista**, it's different. Granted, I don't visit it very often, but they reorganize their home page more frequently than the wallpaper on my computer monitor rotates. Hmmm... maybe they need a few tips on web usability from **Jakob Nielsen**. His most recent Alertbox article asks, Are Users Stupid? **CB**

UK's uncompromising and authoritative music mag **Mojo** finally makes it online. Excellent! **JB**

**Library stats** on the newly redesigned **Ask Eric**. **JB**

Another distance ed option coming in May 2001: online courses through the **FastTrack MLIS Program at UPitt**. This "36-credit degree program is tailored to fit the needs of adult working students." Application due March 30, 2001. **JB**

**The 21st Century Library Award** for librarians at all stages. Deadline: March 30, 2001 **JB**

"... asked who the lovely babe was, pointing to the picture on my desk. When I said it was my wife, he asked if she was home now and wanted my phone number. I called security." **Clueless Job Interview Behavior. JB**
05 feb 01

Given today's Internet resources, are libraries sacred cows? The Opinion column in Colorado Springs' gazette.com is getting pretty heated. Read about it in our Letters section. JB

Noooo... say it isn't so! Found this link via plastic.com and this story hits a little too close to home. JB

How successful are libraries when it comes to interface and information architecture? This thoughtful article made me wonder how many folks don't access all our "buttons" because we don't make it easy. If cdnow offers you a set of links when you misspell an artist, why can't the library catalog? JB

If you're in library school or will be soon, you may be eligible for a Spectrum Scholarship. Deadline: March 1st, 2001. JB

Big thanks to LISNews.com and librarian.net for the link support. JB

03 feb 01

Hey, JB, the deadline has passed on that volunteer opportunity in South Africa. But there are plenty of other international opportunities for people with our skills. CB

"Even though there are thousands of practicing information architects, there are few venues for them to meet and swap stories." I'd like to be in San Francisco today, talking about content, information architecture, and how librarians fit in. JB

Selective links from this week's Scout Report

- **Statistical Accounts of Scotland**: covers 1791-99 and 1834-1845. Includes "the moral health of the people."
- **Tibet Information Network**: rich!
- **QueerTheory.com**: Categorical directory that indexes the best online and print resources in Queer Culture and related fields.
- **LSU Digital Library** -- Ogden Museum of Southern Art and Louisiana State Museum Photographs.
- **The New Grove Dictionary of Jazz**, self-described as "the largest, most comprehensive and most accurate reference work on jazz ever published." JB

I'd like to know where initiatives like this one will be in ten years. Even two. We're talking about virtual reference at our library. JB

02 feb 01

Yahoo launches paid placements, joining all the other major search engines, directories and portals that already do so. JB

Can I beam you? I've been using a PDA for about a year, but lately I'm noticing a lot more of them at meetings I go to. CB

NewBreed has been wrestling with this issue: what size monitor should we design for? CB

Thanks for the link support Surfstation. SS is one of the two inspirations behind NewBreed Librarian. JB

An impressive display of Hemingway's letters and writings debuted yesterday at the University of South Carolina. JB

RumorBot software traces gossip sources on the internet. JB

If you're going to El Salvador any time soon, the Gallardo Library in Santa Tecla could use your help. JB

Collection Development Note: A Brief History of Banned Music in the United States, coming in March, 2001 from HarperCollins. JB

The Bibliographical Center for Research adds on five more states making this the largest territorial expansion ever undertaken by a U.S. library network. JB

Books, books and more books from Booknotes. JB

Two-year residency program at Auburn University Libraries (Alabama) for recent grads. JB

01 feb 01

Welcome to our first issue and debut! As you can see, we're still working out some kinks, like trying to figure out how to make our news section scroll. We'll figure this one out soon enough. If you know of a script that works, send it to us. Thanks for your patience and support.

Run PC programs, access PC networks, and share PC files on your Mac using Virtual PC software from Connectix. JB

This is a good question for libraries too, albeit a bit tangled in the access vs. collections debate. JB

I can't decide which bugs me most, 1 or 3 in the 20 Worst People, Places, and Things on the Internet. JB
New month, new Once-Upon-A-Forest. JB

Gotta love it when 12 year olds feel passionate enough to make their own websites to raise the battle cry. JB

Invasion of privacy or business as usual? Nortel's "Personal Content" allows network operators to track where and how you use the Internet. JB

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